

THE LIBERATION PROGRAM

DEADLINE: MAY 4TH

ELIGIBILITY: Youth Ages 14-17 who will be entering 9th, 10th or 11th grade in Sept. 2012

Liberation Program Mission Statement

Our goal is to develop a cadre of revolutionary youth who will battle against all forms of oppression. As youth, we must work collectively to rise above the destructive negativity in society and free our communities. We refuse to find bliss in ignorance- we will continually educate ourselves and struggle against injustice until we are no longer victims of oppression, but threats to its continued existence.

Following this path of knowledge and determination, we shall achieve the essence of true revolutionaries and reach our ultimate destination – Liberation!

Summer Liberation School

The Summer Liberation School (SLS) is a 4-week training that takes place August 3-31 in preparation for year-long organizing and campaign work. During the training we focus on developing members' awareness of social problems and their affects on individuals and communities, we also study liberation organizations and movements. Throughout the training, members participate in visits to local organizations actively involved in grassroots community organizing. Members also regularly share their ideas towards broadening their understanding of self, community, power, oppression and liberation.

Please legibly print in black or blue ink OR type this application.

NAME	
GRADE & AGE	
BIRTHDATE	
ADDRESS	Street:
	Apt#:
	City/State:
	Zip Code:
SCHOOL	
HOME PHONE	
CELL/OTHER #	
EMAIL	

Why are you interested in the Liberation Program?

What skills can you bring to the Liberation Program?

List the issues affecting you and your community (i.e. family, neighborhood, school, etc.) that you would like to change.

Please list any experiences you have serving the community.

Choose three characteristics that best describe your personality, and explain why.

Do you agree or disagree with any of the Liberation Program platform, why or why not?
(Platform attached.)

***ESSAY QUESTION: PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO WRITE A 1 – 2 PAGE RESPONSE.
BE SURE YOUR RESPONSE IS NEAT AND LEGIBLE.**

1. WHAT IS ONE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE STEPS YOU WOULD USE TO ACHIEVE THAT CHANGE?
2. WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO BE ACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Please mail, fax, or deliver this application to:

Mail: The Liberation Program, c/o The Brotherhood/Sister Sol, 512 West 143 Street, NYC 10031

Fax: 212.283.3700

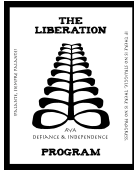
Email: aya@brotherhood-sistersol.org

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If you have any questions, please call 212.283.7044 before the deadline and ask for a member of the Liberation Program Collective. For more information about *The Brotherhood/Sister Sol*, visit www.brotherhood-sistersol.org.

The Brotherhood/Sister Sol offers a safe space full of resources and love for 250 Black and Latina/o youth to speak their minds, acquire knowledge and skills, explore their identity and beliefs, and receive support to make their dreams reality. We focus on issues such as leadership development and educational achievement, sexual responsibility, sexism and misogyny, political education and social justice, Pan-African and Latino history, and global awareness. We provide four-six year rites of passage programming, thorough five day a week after school care, school and home counseling, summer camps, job training and employment, college preparation, community organizing training, and international study programs to Africa and Latin America.



THE LIBERATION PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

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THE LIBERATION PROGRAM PLATFORM

1. We want quality education for all.

We have been victims of a biased education system that has denied quality education for the poor, women and people of color. It is essential that money be fairly distributed throughout the public school system to ensure all youth have access to the best teachers, facilities, programs and resources. Furthermore, we want schools' curriculum to teach the true history of America - the legacy of oppression and the history of struggle.

2. We want an immediate end to police brutality and attacks on people of color.

We have witnessed too many murders and assaults against our people due to the hands of corrupt police authorities. As youth, the police constantly target us; they do not respect us and often act as an occupying army within our communities. However, we are their employers and we pay their salaries. We must establish stronger community control of the police to ensure that the police truly protect and serve.

3. We want decent housing for all, fit to shelter human beings.

Within New York City, the majority of the homeless people are children. The cost of housing has skyrocketed. More and more people are unable to find affordable housing. Instead of developing resolutions to this issue, the government has attempted to hide the problem by forcing people off the streets into dangerous and dilapidated housing that are not fit for living. We demand that these problems be addressed with the development of quality affordable housing.

4. We want an end to the capitalist destruction of our community.

We demand a decent living wage for all workers and a more equal distribution of wealth between owners and workers. We want an end to all forms of exploitation and inequality within the workplace. Gentrification destroys small businesses and sucks money out of our neighborhoods. It continues to keep the poor at an economic disadvantage. Businesses in the community must give back to the community.

5. We want a transformation of the hypocritical criminal justice system.

Within New York, the Rockefeller Laws have resulted in a tremendous disproportion of the number of people of color incarcerated. Within New York City, 97% of the youth in prison are Black and Latino. This injustice has been increased because poor people cannot receive quality legal representation. In addition, prisons are only cages that take away freedom yet offer no hope of a productive future. We want a criminal justice system that provides those in need with quality legal aid and provides rehabilitation services to those convicted of crimes.

6. We want all people within the community to take responsibility for governing the community.

We cannot expect the government to protect or serve us if we are not actively involved. If we are eligible, we must vote. We must hold our elected officials accountable to our needs. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to keep the street clean, protect our neighborhood and prevent the destruction of our children's future. We need to empower ourselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and maintain the improvement of our community. We need to mobilize and commit to serving and protecting our community.

7. We want an immediate end to the self-destructive tendencies within our community.

While we are definitely oppressed people, we also keep ourselves down. It is we who throw trash on the streets, abuse each other, sell drugs to our neighbors, and abandon our children. We continue to support the same negative cycle over and over again. We have to break this chain and realize that if we are not part of the solution, we are part of the problem.

8. We want a radical change in government spending.

Why is it that the government spends more money on building prisons than on building schools or community centers? Why is it that the United States is one of the only "industrialized nations" without universal health care? Why are big corporations given tax breaks and loopholes yet poor people are forced to fend for themselves? Our money, our tax dollars must be used to support programs and institutions that uplift our community.

9. We want the establishment of a united youth network to voice our concerns.

As youth, we have been instructed to believe that we have no power. Youth may not have the right to vote, but we have the ability to influence voters and elected officials if we are organized. We must use our collective voice to demand that government officials take action towards solving the problems we face. We must take an active role in political issues by uniting to form a citywide youth network. Many young leaders before us have paved the way towards justice for us all. We must continue to struggle for our people "by any means necessary" to create positive social change.

10. We want to achieve Liberation for all people.

We want the establishment of a society where people regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, or religion are able to live freely without oppression. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".